

With the goal of helping individuals toward becoming strong, independent and contributing members of their family and community, Bethlehem Centers provide Nashvillians with life skills training, tutoring, nutrition counseling, senior outreach programs, business and career training, GED preparation, mentoring, and even daily hot lunches.

In addition to these community programs, Bethlehem Centers have earned a three-star rating for their high quality child care services from the Tennessee Department of Human Services. This is their fourth year to receive the highest rating awarded by the State and to be placed among the top rated child care centers in the Nation.

I am proud to send my heartiest congratulations to Bethlehem Centers' Joyce Searcy and all the dedicated staff members who have committed themselves to bettering Nashville's communities.

I join with everyone in Tennessee's Fifth District in applauding the Bethlehem Centers of Nashville for all that they do for the community and I commend everyone at Bethlehem Centers of Nashville who make it a special place to learn, play and grow.

HONORING THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res 384, recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate fraternity established for African-Americans.

From the first literary fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary through the subsequent development of social fraternities starting with Kappa Alpha in 1825, college fraternities have sought to foster close friendship and personal development.

In the early 20th century, Black students were often excluded from the social organizations at many colleges and universities. Alpha Phi Alpha was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, to provide associations and support among African-American students. With its cardinal principles of "Manly Deeds, Scholarship and Love for All Mankind," over 175,000 men have been initiated into the fraternity and there are now over 700 chapters worldwide. Among its membership are a number of prominent figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Owens, Thurgood Marshall and our colleague CHARLES RANGEL.

Aside from the lasting friendships that many young men have found within the fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha has dedicated itself to a number of philanthropic programs. Alpha works closely with organizations such as Head Start, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the NAACP and Habitat for Humanity. Alpha Phi Alpha has also created a number of its own programs such as the Go-To-High-School, Go-To-College program and "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People." Alpha Phi Alpha also submitted the request for The Washington,

D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation which was authorized by President Clinton in 1998.

Alpha Phi Alpha has two chapters in and around my district in central New Jersey, the Sigma Xi Chapter at Monmouth University and the Delta Iota Chapter at Rutgers University. I am proud of the role they play in enriching their surrounding communities.

From its origins as a social network for African-American college students to its continuing philanthropic efforts, Alpha Phi Alpha is indeed worthy of recognition and I am proud to stand in support of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the essential contributions of employees and volunteers across the country and abroad who maintain our nation's public parks and recreation facilities. In addition, I would like to commemorate National Recreation and Parks Month, celebrated annually since 1984 throughout the month of July. The purpose of National Recreation and Parks Month is not only to celebrate the start of summer programs but also to advocate for parks and recreation by encouraging communities to engage in outdoor physical activities and volunteering.

Recently, I have undertaken a bipartisan proposal to stop the dumping of sewage into the Great Lakes. Initiatives like these are only the beginning. Through the efforts of Congress and the National Recreation and Park Association, America moves toward a brighter horizon in environmental policy. National Recreation and Parks Month is an important occasion to remind us of our dedication to the preservation of the environment, and serves as an aide-memoire for all Americans to enjoy the natural wonders of our nation.

As a member of the National Parks Caucus, it is my honor to recognize the collective efforts of volunteers and staff alike whose contributions and involvement with the nation's public parks and recreation facilities continue to shape American communities as well as the environment. Today, we celebrate the National Recreation and Park Association's accomplishments and persistent efforts to preserve our environment and show appreciation for the nation's public parks and recreation facilities. The NRPA's initiative, along with support provided by volunteers and staff, truly sow the seeds for communal growth. Such achievements deserve recognition not just during this month, but at every opportunity throughout the year.

DISASTER RECOVERY PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5013, the Disaster Recovery Per-

sonal Protection Act. This legislation would ensure that gun owners' second amendment rights are not compromised in times of natural disaster. I am pleased to lend my strong support to this measure as it is considered today.

The Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act addresses a problem brought to light in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the resulting flood, federal and local law enforcement officials confiscated the firearms of numerous law-abiding individuals. Those actions were entirely unjustified. This injustice must not be repeated elsewhere.

By prohibiting federal, state, or local law enforcement officers from seizing legally-owned firearms which have in no manner been misused during national emergencies, this legislation would prevent a repeat of the abuse of emergency powers that followed Hurricane Katrina.

The government should never confiscate legally-purchased and properly used firearms from law-abiding citizens. Whether natural disasters occur or not does nothing to alter this reality: lawful gun owners have the unalienable right to possess and transport their firearms.

H.R. 5013 would not restrict the ability of law enforcement officials to confiscate stolen firearms or to act when firearms are used in an unlawful manner.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, the absence of an established policing force allowed criminals to loot business and threaten rescue workers and residents of the city. Many individuals looted gun stores and other places of business which sell firearms. As with any stolen property, these stolen firearms should be confiscated, and the individuals who stole them and misused them for crimes should be punished.

Law enforcement officials, however, seized thousands of firearms from law-abiding citizens. During the lawlessness and disorder of the disaster, the law-abiding citizens of the region needed to be able to arm themselves and defend their families and property against criminals. The seizing of these individuals' firearms left them defenseless in the chaos following the hurricane. This legislation protects the second amendment rights of citizens when that right to self-defense is needed most.

The Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act is a common sense measure to prevent the confiscation of firearms from citizens who have committed no crime, and I strongly urge my colleagues to approve it.

TRIBUTE TO CORA T. WALKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Cora T. Walker. Cora Thomasina Walker was born on June 20, 1922, in Charlotte, N.C., one of nine children of William and Benetta Jones Walker. The family moved to the Bronx when she was a child. When she was an adolescent, her parents separated, leaving her, her mother and her siblings dependent on public assistance.

After graduating from James Monroe High School in the Bronx, Ms. Walker promptly informed the Welfare Department that their help

was no longer required: she would support the family. She took a night job as a teletype operator with Western Union and also sold Christmas cards.

At the same time, Ms. Walker was enrolled at St. John's University, then in Brooklyn, in a special 6-year program in which students earned both a bachelor's degree and a law degree. She received a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. John's in 1945 and a law degree the next year.

For much of her career, Ms. Walker was active in the National Bar Association, a historically black organization. She helped found the association's Corporate Counsel Conference, an annual meeting sponsored by its commercial law section. In 1947, when Ms. Walker was admitted to the New York bar, she found the doors of the city's law firms tightly shut. (One firm relented and offered her a position—as a secretary.) So she struck out on her own.

Active in Republican politics, Ms. Walker ran unsuccessfully for the New York State Senate in 1958 and 1964. In 1970, The New York Times included her—the only woman—on a list of the most powerful leaders in Harlem.

In 1960, Cora Walker became the first woman to serve as president of the Harlem Lawyers Association. Until recently her law firm was located in Harlem, first on 125th Street and later from a renovated brownstone on Lenox Avenue. Ms. Walker was the first woman to run for president of the NBA. This is a little known fact by the younger lawyers.

A recipient of numerous awards, the annual Black Law Student's Association's Breakfast held at the annual NBA Convention is named in her honor. She retired from the practice of law in 1999. The same year the New York County Lawyers' Association installed a plaque outside her Lenox Avenue law office commemorating her half-century of practicing law.

In 1988, she helped found the Corporate Counsel Conference which is still sponsored annually by the Commercial Law and Corporate Law Section of the NBA. Her first client was an undertaker, for whom she did collections. Before her retirement, her firm was representing corporate clients such as Conrail, the Ford Motor Company, Texas Instruments and Kentucky Fried Chicken. Although she was representing corporate clients, she continued to draft wills and represent the "plain, ordinary, not elegant people".

Cora T. Walker made an impact on the lives of many black lawyers across the country. She will be dearly missed, but not forgotten. It gives me great pleasure to give tribute to Ms. Cora T. Walker.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OVERTON COUNTY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of Overton County, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. The Upper Cumberland community will commemorate its bicentennial with a 3-day celebration in September.

The area of Overton County was originally encompassed in North Carolina as part of the 13 original colonies. The location was ideal for settlers due to its fresh water, fertile soil, abundant wild game and moderate climate. The area had been a heralded Native American hunting ground for many years.

As the community grew and prospered, the General Assembly of Tennessee named the area Overton County on September 11th, 1806. The county was named for Judge John Overton, a personal friend of Andrew Jackson. Since then, the lines of the county have changed significantly, but the community has maintained its commitment to an outstanding quality of life.

County Mayor Kenneth Copeland, Livingston Mayor Frank Martin and the Overton County Bicentennial Committee will lead the celebration in September. They have done an outstanding job in organizing this event and leading the community into the 21st Century. I wish them well and hope the next 200 years are as prosperous and progressive as the first 200 years.

IN HONOR OF THE GIBBINS' 75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a special couple from England, Arkansas, Eityhel and Luvesta Gibbins, who celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on July 3, 2006. This is a significant milestone and one that only a very few are fortunate enough to celebrate in their lifetime.

Eityhel and Luvesta Gibbins met as children in Fairbanks, Arkansas, and decided to marry in the summer of 1931. The couple made their home in Lonoke County, Arkansas and spent the next forty-five years growing cotton, soybeans, and wheat. Throughout the years, the Gibbins' were blessed with four children—Van D. Gibbins, Ulyes F. Gibbins, Lynn E. Gibbins, and Joe C. Gibbins—and now have the pleasure of spending time with seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Their love for each other and their family extends to their neighbors as well, where they continue to stay involved in their community. They remain active members of the Coy Church of Christ and are often seen participating in local activities and events. Their energy is truly remarkable and perhaps the secret to a long and fulfilling life.

A 75th wedding anniversary reminds us that marriage is not an instant achievement but a covenant that requires love, patience, and respect. Eityhel and Luvesta Gibbins have perfected this commitment to each other and are truly blessed to have a strong marriage, their family, and a lifetime of memories. As they live each day by their wedding vows, they continue to inspire all who are fortunate to know them.

On July 3rd, 2006, Eityhel and Luvesta Gibbins joined their family at a celebration to honor their 75 years of marriage. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this joyous occasion and sending our best wishes for many more years of love and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF BURNS, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Burns, Kansas for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

With a population of approximately 450, the citizens of Burns and the surrounding area demonstrate pride in their community through action.

Over the course of many years, steps have been taken to ensure that the future of Burns is a bright one.

In October of 2002, ground was broken on a new community center. With assistance from the Kansas Department of Commerce Kan-Step Program, the building was completed in March of 2003. During that five-month period, crews of volunteers worked on the center on a daily basis. Cabinets and More, a local business, volunteered more than 300 hours of labor to build and install cabinets. A donation of \$18,000 was made by the Burns school alumni for window blinds and furniture. Twenty tables and 200 chairs were provided at cost—saving the community \$7,000. The end result is a building that sports a wellness center, youth room, a place for seniors to quilt and a great kitchen. The center is constantly reserved for civic events and private gatherings. Carolyn Koehn, former city clerk and coordinator of the community center project, believes the facility demonstrates a collective willingness to enhance Burns' quality of life—today and for future generations. "This project would have not succeeded without the culture of volunteerism and the acceptance of change and new ideas in the Burns community," Koehn said.

More recently, residents banded together to transform the former post office into a new community library and city hall. Grant funding from USDA Rural Development covered \$50,000 of the project expense. Impressively, more than \$95,000 was raised by the Burns Public Library Board from private sources. Approximately half that amount came from local and area residents. The fundraising effort consisted of phone calls, an ice cream social by the Burns United Methodist Church and an 800 letter fundraising campaign. The new city hall and library was completed in May of 2006. Barb Stuhlsatz, library board president, is excited by the additional opportunities that the new facility affords area residents. "We now have a state-of-the-art library that provides reading programs, GED assistance and computer access to residents of Burns and the surrounding area," Stuhlsatz said.

The Burns PRIDE committee is always searching for ways to promote the community. Sandy Heyman, a committee member, came up with a unique way to achieve this goal. She initiated the sale of two-foot tall concrete roosters to local businesses and residents. Upon sale, the roosters were then creatively decorated. In May of 2004, Burns hosted its first ever Rooster Parade. In all, more than 60 roosters have been sold, decorated and are on display. In recognition of the project's success, the local Lions Club has purchased a four-foot rooster that serves as a welcome